



INSECT MANIA

FRIDAY, JULY 28
7:00-9:00 PM

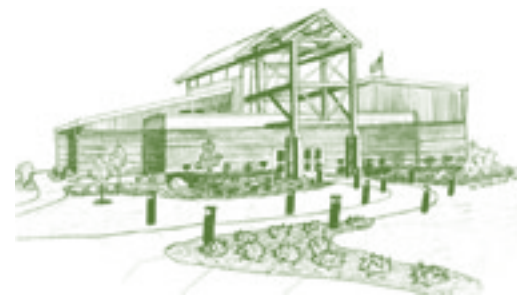

THINGS THAT STING & BITE

VISIT THE NATURE CENTER AND DIVE INTO A WORLD OF INSECTS...



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Tupelo Times
Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus
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<<http://www.missouriconservation.org>>



Tupelo Times

JUNE and JULY 2006 VOL. 2, NO. 3

The Newsletter of the **Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus** Nature Center

FISHING—DO IT FOR THE KIDS

I was four or maybe five years old, somewhere on the Whitewater River in Cape County. I watched that sunfish study my bait and then decide to eat it. After my dad helped me reel in the fish, we admired its brilliant colors. My first memory of a fishing trip - thanks, dad.

Since then, I've been fortunate to make hundreds of fishing memories, nearly all involving friends and family. After my dad passed on, my wife and I took our three boys on many a fishing trip. Now they are grown and out on their own, but when they come home they still want to go fishing with their dad. They reflect back on fond fishing memories: the big catfish David caught when he was only seven, the osprey that plunged into the lake and pulled out a fish, the crawdads we caught when fishing was slow, or the family of otters that swam under our canoe. When you are near the water, there's always something fun for kids to see and do.

Fishing with your kids really is priceless. And with a little luck, it will become a lifetime activity for you and your family. Don't be discouraged if you're not sure where to go or don't have someone to teach you how. Fishing can be simple, inexpensive, and close to home - especially in our area, which is blessed with opportunities.

A few fishing opportunities nearby are in Cape County Park, Jackson City Park, and Trail of Tears State Park. For more fishing locations, visit the

Conservation Department's website fishing page, www.mdc.mo.gov/fish. Many public fishing locations offer good fishing from the shore so you don't need a boat. A good time to try your hand at fishing is Free Fishing Days, Saturday and Sunday, June 10 and 11, when fishing permits are not required.

Don't know a catfish from a bluegill or how to tie on a hook? Come to the Conservation Campus Nature Center and check out our fishing exhibits. Pick up brochures that will teach you the basics of fishing and suggest places to go in the region. While you're there, ask and we'll loan the kids a rod and reel so you can take them down to the Kids' Fishing Pond and they can give it a try. We even supply the bait!

Everything at the nature center in June seems to be a little "fishy." Children can attend the Mudpuppies, Snappers, or Racers fishing programs, designed specifically for their age group, and adults may learn about Dutch oven cooking June 23 or 24 (which is a great skill to accompany fishing!). On special display this month you'll even find artwork by A. J. Hendershott on a variety of native swamp fish.

So there's no excuse not to take your kids fishing. And you're liable to discover a wholesome family activity that will last a lifetime—and create fond memories of your own.

--Mark Haas



What better way to connect with friends and family than grabbing a fishing pole and heading to the water! Take advantage of free fishing throughout Missouri this weekend. Families stop by the Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus to borrow fishing poles and bait, then let the kids fish in the kid's fishing pond for ages 15 and under. If this is your child's first fish, stop by the nature center front desk to pick up an application for a First Fish Certificate. And don't forget to recycle your used fishing line in the containers at the nature center lobby.

Volunteering has it's rewards...

The Nature Center Volunteers kicked off spring with a canoeing visit to Allred Lake Natural Area – a picture-perfect swamp south of Poplar Bluff. Thanks to Wildlife Intern Katie Derr, who helped plan the trip, the volunteers learned firsthand what much of Southeast Missouri used to look like and enjoyed the opportunities to see some swamp life. “Arrowhead” Fred Bollinger shared his passion and art for flint knapping with many folks and Charlie Wilson led a wildflower walk discovering the blooms of spring along the White Oak Trace trails. Many volunteers have helped with special events and programs, making memorable experiences both for them and the public. Some volunteers are discovering the variety of phone calls that the nature center receives and are given opportunities to share in the wonder of Missouri’s natural resources and learn more as they look up information for the caller. Congratulations to Fred Bollinger and Kelly Hughes who received nominations for the United Way of Southeast Missouri and Volunteer Intergenerational Center 2006 Volunteer Recognition Award.

Whether it’s the opportunity to explore our rich natural history, share a passion for outdoor skills with visitors, or see a smile of genuine excitement on a child’s face, volunteering has it’s rewards. If you are interested in becoming a nature center volunteer at the Conservation Campus, please attend the **volunteer interest meeting June 13, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**, to learn more about this dynamic program.

Volunteer Milestones

100 Hours of Service	200 Hours of Service
Joan Anderson	Charlie Wilson
Phil Dodson	
Denise Dowling	
Carolyn Sarff	



Kelly Hughes and Lee Parks during “Scoutin’ Around”

Thank You

Donations of Time, Material, and Service

Anthony Miano: Missouri Conservationist magazines

Dennis Vollenic: Hummingbird photos

Dee Froemsdorf: Finger puppets

Terry Rollins: Adirondack chair

Rodney Eddleman: Native plants

Margie Crites: Hornet’s nests

Jim Oldham: Eagle photos

Those purchasing paving stones for the Conservation Campus walkway:

Marvin E. and Donna Proffer Family

Scott and Susan Kelley

WANTED

Nature Center Volunteers

Do you enjoy helping others, teaching kids, or spending time outdoors? We are looking for volunteers to help answer phones, monitor trails, work in the gardens, and present programs to youth and adults. We will conduct a training class this summer. For more information, please attend the Volunteer Interest Meeting, June 13, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Educators’ Niche

Upcoming Workshops

Insect Emporium Workshop

Insects have a reputation as being creepy, crawly, scary creatures. This course will illuminate some of the unique characteristics that make these animals interesting. This course will include information on: identification, habitats, and dilemmas facing insects. Participants will also learn how to incorporate this information into their existing curricula. This workshop will be held on June 16 and 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day at the Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus Nature Center. The fee is \$175.00 for one graduate credit from SEMO or \$30.00 for two CEUs. For more information about this course, please contact Bridget Jackson at 573-290-5858 ext 300. To register, please call the Office of Extended and Continuing Education at 573-986-6879.

Swamp Ecology Workshop

Most of the swamp ecosystems in Missouri are found in the southeast portion of the state. There is a need for teachers to understand the dynamic processes that take place in a swamp environment and to communicate that understanding to students in the school setting. This course will effectively give teachers the knowledge base in all aspects of swamp ecology and train them to extend that knowledge to their students.

This workshop will be held on July 17 - 21 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day at the Otter Slough Conservation Area near Dexter. The fee is \$350.00 for two graduate credit from SEMO or \$60.00 for four CEUs. For more information about this course, please contact Bridget Jackson at 573-290-5858 ext 300. To register, please call the Office of Extended and Continuing Education at 573-986-6879.

The Nature Shop

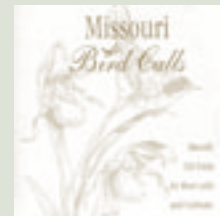
The Nature Shop features a variety of nature-related books, videos/DVDs, and resources to increase awareness and knowledge of conservation and the outdoors.

Special monthly discounts ... 20% Off
(Conservation Heritage Card discounts do not apply)

JUNE

Missouri Bird Calls CD

This CD is designed to help you identify 192 birds by their calls, which are arranged in ten categories. You’ll learn to discern nocturnal birds and our feathered friends of the grasslands, grain fields, town and yards, shrubby fields, forest edge and interior, wooded streams and lakes and ponds.

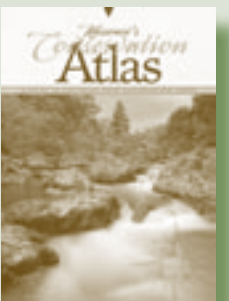


Discounted price:
\$6.40 plus tax

JULY

Missouri Conservation Atlas

As a Missouri citizen, you share in the ownership of nearly 1,000 conservation areas. To help you discover and enjoy them, the Missouri Department of Conservation has published a new atlas. The easy-to-read maps feature more than 900 areas owned, managed or leased by MDC. 240 pages.



Discounted price:
\$15.20 plus tax

WHAT IS A DISCOVERY TRUNK?

A Discovery Trunk is a collection of materials that may be checked out by innovative teachers and youth leaders. These trunks are a great way to compliment thematic units or as an intriguing way to cross disciplines.

There is no fee for using the trunks. Each trunk may be checked out for two weeks. The trunks contain books, hands-on activities, natural items, videos, CDs, posters, curriculum guides, and more. Activities and materials range from early childhood to secondary level. Many of the activities are correlated with the Show-Me-Standards. We ask that trunks be returned in good condition and on time for the next educator.

Featured Discovery Trunk: **WETLAND TRUNK**

Why would anyone want to study wetlands? Well, wetlands have a better diversity of animals and plants than almost any other habitat. They also clean water and help with flood control. This trunk will help you teach your students just how unique and valuable wetlands are. Wetland mammal pelts, puppets, track molds, fish prints, books, videos, CD-ROMs, and activity guides makes this trunk a MUST borrow. Go ahead and get your feet wet!

Don’t forget to visit the Educator Resource Room!

Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus Nature Center is located in North Cape Girardeau County Park off Kingshighway just east of Interstate 55 at exit 99. The building is open Tuesday through Saturday 8am to 5pm and Sunday noon to 5pm and is closed Mondays, New Year’s Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The area is open daily from sunrise to 10pm in accordance with the Cape Girardeau County Park Rules and Regulations.

Nature center grounds and trails are closed to pets, horses, hunting, collecting, littering, fires, and alcoholic beverages. The trails are also closed to bicycles, jogging, in-line skates, skateboards, scooters, and motorized vehicles.

The Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus Nature Center is operated through hunting and fishing license revenues and through the 1/8% “Design for Conservation” sales tax. There is no admission charge.

Phone: 573/290-5218; Fax: 573/290-5566; Internet: www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/cape



June Events

REGISTRATION

There are many programs that require registration. Please call the nature center at **573/290-5218** on or after June 1 for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

3 National Trails Day *Saturday, 9am-Noon*

A hiking we will go! Join us as we celebrate National Trails Day with hikes of varying lengths on White Oak Trace, Cypress Crossing, and Maple Hollow. Programs will be offered that focus on backpacking, hiking safety, hiking with kids, the benefits of hiking, and hiking organizations. We'll also be picking up trash to make our trail system look even better. Bring your family and friends to share in this great, outdoor experience.

Auditorium Programs

Backpacking/Leave No Trace – program at 9:30 & 10:45

Hiking 101 – program at 10:10 & 11:20

Guided Hikes

White Oak Trace & Maple Hollow - difficult
2 hour hike leaves at 9:00

White Oak Trace - moderate
1½ hour hike leaves at 9:30

Self-guided Hike

White Oak Trace (Ridgetop Trail) - easy
30 minute walk (ongoing)

All ages. No registration required.

Youth groups welcome.

4 Naturalist's Notebook *Sunday, 2-3pm*

On the first Sunday of each month, join one of the Naturalists as they select a favorite program from their notebook, set up an interesting discovery table, or explore current natural events along the trail. Regardless of their selection, you'll be glad you came. All ages. No registration required.



Snappers



You Get a Line

*Tuesday, June 6
6:30-8pm*

The fish are biting and it is time to enjoy an evening around the lake. Nature center staff and volunteers will assist with fishing techniques and ethics. Also learn to identify some of the interesting and unusual fish that southeast Missouri has to offer. We will supply the equipment while you try your luck and see if you can take home a big one. **Snappers** programs are designed for kids ages 7-11.

Registration required, begins June 1

6 Pond Management Workshop *Tuesday, 7-9pm*

Why aren't there big bass in my pond? Do I need to treat aquatic vegetation? What types of fish are best to stock in a pond? How many fish can you harvest from your pond each year? To help answer these and other commonly asked questions, the Missouri Department of Conservation is sponsoring a Pond Management Workshop. Topics to be covered include pond site selection, pond construction, watershed management, pond ecology, stocking, balanced and unbalanced fish populations, harvest, aquatic vegetation control, fish parasites and other topics. Ages 12 and up. Preregistration required. Contact the SE Regional office at 573-290-5730.



Mudpuppies

Something Fishy

*Saturday, June 10
10am, 1pm or 3pm
Tuesday, June 20
10am or 1pm*

Lazy summer days and fishing go hand in hand. Discover some of Missouri's super swimmers such as the bullhead catfish, largemouth bass, and bluegill. We will find out how to make good fishing choices and then we will grab our magnetic fishing poles to practice reeling in that BIG catch at our classroom pond. Before the hour is over we will also make a one-of-a-kind fish print to take home. **Mudpuppies** programs are designed for kids ages 3-6. Please limit attendance to one 45 minute program per month.

Registration required, begins June 1

Free Fishing Weekend

*At a pond, stream, or lake near you!
Saturday and Sunday
June 10 & 11*

(See the *Wildlife Code*
of Missouri for details)



11 Nature's Patterns *Sunday, 1-2pm*



You say there is a snake in those leaves? Someone built a chimney in the mud? See the fringe on that feather? The natural world has a variety of shapes, colors, sizes, and patterns. Sit back and relax in the auditorium as we look at some of nature's mysterious marvels, and try to take a guess at what is hidden in the images. All ages. No registration required. Youth groups welcome.

Temporary Display

Stop by the nature center's "Auditorium Gallery" during the month of June to view a collection of drawings entitled *Swamp Fish of Southeast Missouri*, by local artist AJ Hendershott.

RACERS



Lure'em In *Saturday, June 17 9-11am*

Ever wondered which lure to use or how to be more successful when fishing? Lure-maker and master fisherman, Fred Meystedt, will be here to tell you how to catch crappie, bluegill, and trout. With over 60 years of experience, Fred has the knowledge and skills to help you on your way towards catching the big one. You'll learn how to make lures and use them, too. The program begins and ends at the Nature Center. Fishing will take place in the large pond in Cape County Park North. Don't have a pole? Don't worry, we've got one for you. **Racers** programs are designed for teens ages 12-17.

Registration required, begins June 1

22 Conservation Café *Thursday, 6:30-8pm*



Paul Corbin is as much a treasure as the artifacts he has unearthed throughout the United States. He has contributed artifacts and a wealth of knowledge to the nature center. During an interview with A. J. Hendershott, Mr. Corbin will share insightful and entertaining stories of his life in Bollinger County and his discoveries of earlier cultures. Afterwards, refreshments will be served in the Conservation Café while Mr. Corbin entertains questions and shows various artifacts. Ages 12-adult.

Registration required, begins June 1

23 "Adults Only" Dutch Oven Cooking *Friday, 6-9pm or Saturday, 9-Noon or 2-5pm*

Come to one of the three sessions and learn the basics of "Dutch Oven Style" cooking. Experience a meal cooked outdoors in cast iron. Join Scott Kelley as he demonstrates the care of dutch ovens and techniques used by many outdoor chefs and enthusiast of dutch oven cooking. Ages 18-adult.

Registration required, begins June 1



25 Wood Strip Canoe Building *Sunday, 2-4pm*



Would you like to learn how to construct a wood strip canoe or kayak? Then this session is for you. Come meet canoe builder Percy Hubbard and see his completed boat. He will lead a discussion on the types of wood, tools, and materials needed for the project. Information on project requirements and resources will be available. Come see how the strong back and frames are used to build this beautiful and useful canoe. Ages 18-adult.

Registration required, begins June 1

Featured Films

shown in the auditorium
Sundays from 3-4pm

Call the nature center
front desk to find out
what videos will be
shown this month.





July Events

2 Naturalist's Notebook Sunday, 2-3pm

On the first Sunday of each month, join one of the Naturalists as they select a favorite program from their notebook, set up an interesting discovery table, or explore current natural events along the trail. Regardless of their selection, you'll be glad you came. All ages. No registration required.



The nature center will be open July 4 from 8am-5pm. No fireworks are allowed on the nature center grounds.

6 Fishin' with the Family Thursday, 6:30-8:30pm

Looking for something to do that the whole family can enjoy? Why not try fishing? Fred Meystedt, a master fisherman with over 60 years of experience, will give you pointers on how to make your next family outing a BIG success. From choosing a hook to cooking your catch, you'll learn the best techniques for catching, cleaning, and cooking your crappie, bluegill, and trout. The program begins and ends at the Nature Center. Fishing will take place in the large pond in Cape County Park North. Poles are available for participant use. Ages 6 and up.

Registration required, begins June 15



Mudpuppies

A Pond Adventure

Saturday, July 8
10am, 1pm or 3pm
Tuesday, July 18
10am or 1pm

What was that? A dragonfly darting by? Look, a beetle is racing across the top of the water. These are just a couple of the sights that we might see during our adventure to the pond. You will find a variety of life as we take an up close look at some of the critters, big and small, that live in the waters near the nature center. **Mudpuppies** programs are designed for kids ages 3-6. Please limit attendance to one 45 minute program per month.

Registration required, begins July 1

Temporary Display

Experience some of this regions natural beauties though the lens of local photographer, artist, and naturalist Scott Kelley. These spectacular snapshots can be viewed throughout the month of July in the nature center's "Auditorium Gallery."

REGISTRATION

There are many programs that require registration. Please call the nature center at **573/290-5218** on or after July 1 for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

RACERS

Canoeing 101 Sunday, July 9 1-5pm

Are you ready for that end of the summer float trip on one of Missouri's beautiful waterways? If you feel you need to brush up on your skills, then we can help. Tips, tricks, and techniques are what this canoeing trip at Lake Girardeau Conservation Area is all about. You'll learn and practice the canoeing skills needed to make your trip safe and more enjoyable. Transportation to and from the nature center, as well as life jackets and canoes will be provided. **Racers** programs are designed for teens ages 12-17.

Registration required, begins July 1



11 Underground Exploration Tuesday, 6:30-9pm

Missouri is the cave state with over 6000 caves. Perry County alone has at least 500. If you haven't explored this underground world, you should take advantage of this beginning course. The nature center is partnering with the SEMO Grotto of the National Speleological Society to offer a beginning caving course which concludes with a caving trip on **Saturday, July 15. (must attend program to go on caving trip)** Participants will learn how caves are formed, see wildlife species that live in this underground habitat, practice basic caving techniques, and learn what equipment to use for safe exploration. Ages 18 – adult (14 and up with a parent).

Registration required, begins July 1



Snappers



Snappers will not meet this month.

Bring your entire family to "Insect Mania" Friday, July 28 (see below for more details).

22 "Adults Only" Ready...Aim...Fire! Saturday, 10-11:30am or 2-3:30pm

Try your hand at learning some new outdoor shooting skills with our new Laser Shot video game system. Practice your skills while learning about safety and shooting techniques. Ages 18-adult.

Registration required, begins July 1

23 Ruby Gems Sunday, 1-2pm

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are one of Mother Nature's most delightful birds, and late summer is the prime time to spot hummingbirds in southeast Missouri. From the air conditioned comfort of our auditorium, we will explore hummingbird behavior and biology. We will also share tips and techniques to help you observe and attract these natural wonders, as well as, stories about these aerial acrobats. Ages 10 and up. No registration required.



28 Insect Mania Friday, 7-9pm

Insects--they fascinate us, they surround us, and some sting and bite us--but what would a summer evening be like without them? Dive into the world of insects as we focus on those that really bug us. All ages. No registration required. Youth groups welcome.



Featured Films

shown in the auditorium
Sundays from 3-4pm

Call the nature center front desk to find out what videos will be shown this month.



Com-
ing in
August

Hummingbird Celebration! Saturday, August 19 9am-4pm

Anyone fortunate enough to have hummingbirds around knows how amazing they are. Late July and August is the prime time for hummingbird migration in our area and these ruby gems are gearing up for their journey south. Master banders, Lanny Chambers and Cathie Hutcheson will be banding hummingbirds that are migrating through our area. Information

stations and seminars will provide tips on attracting hummingbirds, gardening, feeder care and much more. Kids can check out our fledgling fun corner too. All ages. No registration required.

